



## **Executive Summary**

### **AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)**

#### **1. Introduction**

This plan represents the second year of the City of Binghamton 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. Many of the elements in this plan will be similar if not the same as the previous year's plan. No new goals have been identified although the City has responded to more recent issues such as the heroin epidemic by utilizing its standard public service allocations to help battle this problem. The City continues to look at the City as a whole in allocating its entitlements but with the changes to its demographics and locations of poverty, CDBG funds may be implemented in new neighborhoods that may have not qualified before.

This plan shall work in tandem with the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2014 and available at <http://www.binghamton-ny.gov/blueprint-binghamton-comprehensive-plan> and draws from surveys done for that project as well as a residential market analysis available at <http://www.binghamton-ny.gov/residential-market-analysis>. An Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Plan was created in 2015 that identified additional measures the City may need to take to ensure fairness and equality for all of its residents.

#### **2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan**

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

This plan has seven goals based on the Consolidated Plan goals. These goals are to 1) increase home ownership rates, 2) reduce blight and beautify the city, 3) eliminate homelessness, 4) rebuild or modernize public infrastructure, 5) improve transportation and accessibility, 6) provide services for the underserved, and 7) revitalize the economy of Binghamton.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

Severe funding cuts have decreased the ability for the City and its grant sub-recipients to maintain previous levels of service quality. Owner occupancy rates over the last several years have increased slightly despite the population shrinking. Dozens of blighted buildings in the community have been removed. However, there is still much work that needs to be done.

### **4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City has a Community Development Advisory Council made up of eleven appointees selected by the mayor and council members to act as the voice of the residents per the Citizen Participation Plan. This committee typically meets regularly and meetings are open to the public. CDAC members are also encouraged to do local outreach in their neighborhoods to seek additional comments or suggestions. The CDAC provides recommendations on the Annual Action Plan and funding.

An initial public meeting was held in March, and over a dozen people attended. Almost all were representatives of local non-profit agencies that currently or hope to receive CDBG funding. Three speakers voiced their opinions on not only what their agency does but what they perceive as needs in the community.

At the May Public Hearing, previous and additional speakers spoke about the need for unmet public services in the City as well as the need for investment in the community as a whole.

In addition to these public comment periods, individuals can contact the City directly and relevant comments are passed onto the CDAC for their deliberations.

### **5. Summary of public comments**

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

March 7th Public Hearing Comment Summary

- Youth and young adults need programs that encourage avoiding risky behavior
- Funding is needed for programs that address teen pregnancy, bullying, and birth control
- CDBG money is useful for programs that help the elderly

## May 2 Public Hearing Comment Summary

- Youth and young adults need programs that encourage avoiding risky behavior
- There is a need for comprehensive sex education and abstinence education has been proven to not work
- The homeless shelters need to continue to be funded
- Community development is needed going forward

### **6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them**

All comments are taken into consideration. Requests for direct funding of public services will need to be done in the Fall during the RFP process.

### **7. Summary**

The goals listed herein represent a comprehensive city-wide effort to reshape the City for the better.

## PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

### 1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role		Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator		Binghamton	Department of Planning, Housing, and Comm Develop.
HOME Administrator		Binghamton	Department of Planning, Housing, and Comm Develop.
ESG Administrator		Binghamton	Department of Planning, Housing, and Comm Develop.

**Table 1 – Responsible Agencies**

### Narrative (optional)

The Binghamton Department of Planning, Housing, and Community Development is the agency responsible for preparing the HUD entitlement individual Annual Action Plans. The Community Development division is responsible for administering the CDBG and ESG grants and the Housing division is responsible for administering HOME funds.

### Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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## **AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)**

### **1. Introduction**

A public meeting was held on March 7, 2016 to hear local needs and concerns for the Annual Action Plan. Dozens of agencies, from local social groups to municipal agencies to religious organizations, were contacted via email or phone. Individuals within the community who had expressed interest in being notified about HUD funding were also contacted. Thirteen people attended of which most were employees of various non-profit agencies in the area. Three individuals/groups voiced their concerns. In addition to the stakeholder meeting, additional agencies have been contacted via email or phone outreach in order to gauge additional considerations and needs. When schedules permitted, City officials met with stakeholder groups. The City also created a contact email specifically for which stakeholders and residents could voice their concerns, and this email was included in the press release submitted at the time the draft Annual Action Plan was released for public review in order to maximize public feedback.

### **Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l))**

The city works directly with three housing providers: First Ward Action Council, Opportunities for Broome, and Metro Interfaith. First Ward Action Council, amongst other activities, provides senior housing rehab services which is reimbursed through the CDBG program. Opportunities for Broome is an agency that works to better and empower the low income residents of the area. Metro Interfaith runs the Home Ownership Academy that provides free financial and home purchase counseling for prospective home owners and helps coordinate with the Housing division for its own home purchase program. All of these agencies run their own housing services for lower income households in various locations throughout the region. The Binghamton Housing Authority is a separate entity that administers the Section 8 Program and Public Housing in Binghamton.

Each Fall, the City releases RFPs seeking applications for the expenditures of the CDBG public service activity funds as well as ESG funds. Potential stakeholders are notified along with public advertising to maximize agencies that wish to become sub-recipients. The Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) helps oversee and award the remaining service and ESG funds prior to the Council's and Mayor's final decision on sub-recipient's funding allocations.

### **Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.**

The Grants Administrator works closely with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, as well as the CoC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Administrator. The Grants Administrator acts as a voting member of the CoC as a representative of the City and is a member of the NOFA and HMIS subcommittees.

**Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS**

The Grants Administrator works closely with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, as well as the CoC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Administrator. The Grants Administrator acts as a voting member of the CoC as a representative of the City and is a member of the NOFA and HMIS subcommittees. The Chair of the CoC was invited to attend a CDAC meeting and explain the area's homeless situation. The CoC also helped shape the particulars of budgeting for the Annual Action Plan by providing insight and suggestions as to how the City should allocate funding for the five ESG eligible activities. In the Fall, the CoC will also work hand in hand with the CDAC to prepare the RFPs for homeless agencies wishing to receive EGS funding as well as to make recommendations as to which agencies will receive specific funding for their programs.

**2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities**

**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	ACTION FOR OLDER PERSONS
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Agency is a current subrecipient of CDBG funds and offered insight at the March Public Hearing regarding elderly needs in the area.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Family Planning of SCNY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Health Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Agency spoke at March Public Hearing about the need for their program.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Life Choices Center
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Health Services-Education
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Agency provided information about programs they run at the March 7th Public Hearing.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Coalition for the Homeless of the Southern Tier, NY Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Agency is the local Continuum of Care. Provided information regarding homeless needs in the area.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Binghamton Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Public Housing Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Agency was contacted for development of a separate grant application in the early part of 2016. Development of that application provided vital information about the PHA , its residents, as well as the nature of the neighborhood in the downtown area that surrounds the PHA apartments.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	YWCA
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Agency is a member of the Homeless Coalition and receives funding from the City's Emergency Solutions Grant program to run an emergency shelter.

**Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting**



Representatives of nine agencies attended the first meeting in March. Of those, only three communicated with the CDAC their opinions, as listed previously. Any agency may contact the City Community Development Department at any time for help or to submit ideas or even ask questions regarding the HUD Entitlement programs.

No business or civic leaders were contacted regarding a homeless strategy specifically because of the advanced organizational state of the local Continuum of Care.

No specific consultations with the State or local health agencies were done regarding a lead based paint strategy, although several health agencies were contacted for the first meeting. The City has continued funding for a lead paint abatement program for the past several years in tandem with its home repair program. Code Enforcement’s policy for lead paint is to refer tenants to or contact the county Health Department for lead testing.

**Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan**

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier	The City receives ESG funds it then distributes to agencies that provide homeless services. Many if not all, belong to the Homeless Coalition. The Homeless Coalition also provides client tracking information that the City can then utilize for its own plan and strategies. In many ways, the Homeless Coalition and the City are partners in implementing homeless prevention and reduction policies.
Blueprint Binghamton	City of Binghamton	Several projects and goals listed in the Blueprint Binghamton comprehensive plan were scheduled to be met with CDBG funds. In the years since the development of that plan, several of those goals have been met.

**Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts**

**Narrative (optional)**

## **AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)**

### **1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

The City has a Community Development Advisory Council made up of appointees selected by the mayor and council members to act as the voice of the residents per the Citizen Participation Plan. This committee meets throughout the year to provide recommendations on the City's Consolidated and Annual Action Plans.

In addition, public meetings are held prior to adoption of the Annual Action Plan. One is held prior the release of the draft plan and another is held during the 30 day comment period to take in resident feedback.

In addition, the press release submitted during the 30 day comment period encouraged citizens to reply via email to a dedicated email address setup for all HUD based plans and actions in order to provide a better record of public feedback.

### **Citizen Participation Outreach**

<b>Sort Order</b>	<b>Mode of Outreach</b>	<b>Target of Outreach</b>	<b>Summary of response/attendance</b>	<b>Summary of comments received</b>	<b>Summary of comments not accepted and reasons</b>	<b>URL (If applicable)</b>
1	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	Over a dozen attendees and five commentators between two hearings.	Fund service programs for youth, elderly, homeless, and community development.	None rejected	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	The Community Development Advisory Council is made up of eleven appointed members that represent city residents. Meetings are open to the public. CDAC members are also encouraged to do local outreach in their neighborhoods to seek additional comments or suggestions.	All meetings are recorded and available to anyone who asks for a copy. When resources permit, meeting minutes are transcribed from the recordings. CDAC comments are taken into account by the Council and Mayor and the Grants Administrator acts as a liaison between the City and the members	Generally, all legitimate comments are reacted upon. In cases where official decisions must be made, a quorum vote is required in order to give the CDAC a centralized voice on a course of action.	<a href="http://www.binghamton-ni.gov/community-development-advisory-committee-cdac">http://www.binghamton-ni.gov/community-development-advisory-committee-cdac</a>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Internet Outreach	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p>	<p>All residents are encouraged to send comments to the Grants Administrator via phone or direct email. Alternately, they can email <a href="mailto:hudplan@cityofbinghamton.com">hudplan@cityofbinghamton.com</a>. This email link is linked to the Grants Administrator and is used as the default email for public comments via email.</p>	<p>Two comments have been received in the past year, excluding those wishing to be added to the HUD mailing list. One requested additional funding for youth programs, and another requested additional funding for infrastructure or capital improvements for non-profit agencies in lower income areas.</p>	<p>Historically, the City has shied away from investing CDBG funds into capital improvements for non-profits. However, the usage of funds for such activities is not expressly forbidden. Policy makers have been informed about the eligibility of these improvements.</p>	

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**



## Expected Resources

### AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c) (1, 2)

#### Introduction

Entitlement funding from HUD has decreased steadily over the past few years with the exception of recent HOME increases. Currently, the city receives approximately \$2.25 million in overall entitlement amongst the three programs : CDBG, HOME, and ESG. With decreasing funds comes decreasing capability of delivering improvements and programs to the city. In addition, regulatory oversight limits the usage of these funds as many resources must be spent to meet HUD and other federal requirements, New York State, and even Broome County and other local requirements.

#### Priority Table

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,735,336	48,709	0	1,784,045	5,775,812	Program income estimated from average of previously three years program income received. Additional RL funds will be added as receipted .

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	374,056	43,144	0	417,200	773,891	Program income estimated from average of previously three years program income received
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	156,982	0	0	156,982	364,666	ESG funds will consist of entitlement funds only.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

**Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied**

For the 25% match from HOME funds, the City of Binghamton utilizes past and current State level grants funds to match the amount. The City works with the Homeless Coalition to discuss its member's capacity to meet the matching 50% for ESG funds and the City meets its own small portion of it's match through general fund expenses to cover additional relevant salary expenses.

**If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan**

The only City owned property that would be influenced by the needs within this plan would be park improvements and the potential demolition of properties acquired by the City for removal of blight. The future useage of cleared properties will be based on what CDBG eligible activities will best be served by reuse of the plots.

Currently, three broad categories are planned for future usage of cleared properties. Properties could be sold to neighbors who are LMI verified owner occupants of their own properties for use as a yard or garden. Alternately, properties could be turned into public green-space or mini parks in LMI areas. Similarly, cleared properties adjacent to a park that serves an LMI service area could be incorporated into the park space. Finally, if several adjoining properties are cleared, the properties could be redeveloped as part of an economic incubator project that will have the goal of either serving an LMI area or by creating LMI jobs.

**Discussion**



## Annual Goals and Objectives

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Increase Owner Occupied Housing	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	City of Binghamton	Homeownership	CDBG: \$145,156 HOME: \$438,843	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 50 Households Assisted Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 77 Household Housing Unit Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 7 Households Assisted
2	Blight Reduction	2015	2019	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Blight Reduction	CDBG: \$298,954 HOME: \$170,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit Buildings Demolished: 8 Buildings Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 4593 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness	2015	2019	Homeless	City of Binghamton	Eliminate Homelessness	ESG: \$156,982	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 30 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 275 Persons Assisted Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 0 Beds Homelessness Prevention: 170 Persons Assisted
4	Improve Infrastructure	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Fix Public Utilities and Facilities	CDBG: \$192,849	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 26774 Persons Assisted
5	Improve Transportation & Accessibility	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Improve Transportation	CDBG: \$127,500	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 90 Households Assisted
6	Provide Service Activities	2015	2019	Non-Homeless Special Needs	City of Binghamton	Services for the Underserved	CDBG: \$112,500	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1704 Persons Assisted
7	Economic Development	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	City of Binghamton	Economic Revitalization	CDBG: \$163,000	Jobs created/retained: 15 Jobs Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses Assisted

**Table 6 – Goals Summary**

## Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Increase Owner Occupied Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This goal will be accomplished by funding the Binghamton Homeownership Academy through Metro Interfaith. In addition funding is being set aside to provide City seniors with minor to moderate repairs on their homes. The First Time Homebuyer program, utilizing older funding but still administered by the Housing department, will provide funds to assist income eligible households with new homes in the city and the related HOME rehabilitation program along with the lead paint program will help repair and rehabilitate owner occupied housing units.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Blight Reduction
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Code Enforcement Department to inspect and enforce building codes in lower income and blighted areas. Money will also be allocated through the HOME CHDO set aside for rental rehabilitation. Demolition activities, including engineering expenses, will decrease the number of vacant and dangerous building in the City. Finally, money will go into crime prevention to provide additional security in low income areas and parks.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness
	<b>Goal Description</b>	ESG funds will go towards assisting the running and potential expansion of homeless shelters in the area. Funds will also be used to provide homeless prevention services for those on the verge of homelessness and for providing funds to enable the homeless to transition from shelter to their own housing. Finally, a portion of funds will be used to provide HMIS services.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Improve Infrastructure
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Department of Public Works and the Parks Department for the replacement or modernization of public utilities and facilities. A portion will also be provided to the Engineering Department to oversee these activities.

5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Improve Transportation & Accessibility
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This goal will be accomplished by providing funds to fully reconstruct streets where needed, or to provide for milling and paving of eligible areas. It will also cover the costs to provide engineering services for these activities. In addition, funds will be allocated to develop plans for improving accessibility to city services and facilities for residents.
6	<b>Goal Name</b>	Provide Service Activities
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This goal will be accomplished by providing funds for various non-profits to provide services that affect special needs populations, including, but not limited to, lower income youth, seniors, and the disabled. In addition, the City has identified that the national heroin epidemic has become a local problem and will utilize funds to address this matter.
7	<b>Goal Name</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Binghamton Local Development corporation to provide low interest loans to small business with the requirement that they create jobs for low income people. The BLDC will also provide marketing and technical assistance for businesses within the community.

**Table 7 – Goal Descriptions**

**Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.215(b):**

Approximately fifteen new housing units are expected to be created through the HOME program through a local CHDO. Overall, the City will provide, directly or indirectly, new affordable housing to approximately 25 people this year.

## **AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)**

### **Introduction**

The City will release RFPs in the fall for both the public services goals and the homeless goals for the upcoming city fiscal year (January 1st to December 31st). This will allow agencies in the community to submit their plans on utilizing entitlement money. For ESG funds, the Homeless Coalition is utilized as a source for creation of the homeless specific RFP and the selection of awarded agencies. Although many of the agencies who submit ESG activities are part of the Homeless Coalition, the overall group's input is utilized to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest. All submitted activities are evaluated by the Community Development Advisory Council, along with public feedback, and then recommendations are submitted to the Mayor's Office and the City Council prior to final approval.

Certain activities, due to the nature of the activities, are done through either formal bid, such as multi-year lead testing contracts, or due to unique capabilities and/or past working relationships such as with Metro Interfaith and First Ward Action Council, are directly assigned to agencies.

Council and the Mayor will make final approvals of this FY42 AAP Budget and Plan in July.

#	Project Name
10	FY42 ESG/City of Binghamton
11	FY42 HOME/Administration
12	FY42 HOME/Rehabilitation
13	FY42 HOME/CHDO Set-aside

**Table 8 – Project Information**

### **Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs**

Activities are not sorted by priority. Allocation numbers are kept to maintain consistency with the numbering system used in previous year for improved tracking. Priorities for each project are determined by the Needs Assessment in the Consolidated Plan.

## Projects

### AP-38 Projects Summary

#### Project Summary Information

Table 9 – Project Summary

1	<b>Project Name</b>	FY42 ESG/City of Binghamton
	<b>Target Area</b>	City of Binghamton
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Eliminate Homelessness
	<b>Funding</b>	ESG: \$156,982
	<b>Description</b>	Project for the usage of ESG funds
	<b>Target Date</b>	8/31/2017
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	All clients served will be homeless or on the verge of homeless
	<b>Location Description</b>	City-wide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	In addition to administrative costs, ESG funds will be used to address the five categories of eligible activities as detailed by HUD for ESG funds. In coordination with the local Continuum of Care, the City will distribute these funds according to homeless agency needs to reduce homelessness in the City. The City is committed to the usage of funds to be used mainly for the purposes of assisting people to go from situations of homelessness in all its definitions to permanent and sustainable housing situations.
2	<b>Project Name</b>	FY42 HOME/Administration

	<b>Target Area</b>	City of Binghamton
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Increase Owner Occupied Housing Blight Reduction
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Homeownership Blight Reduction
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$35,205
	<b>Description</b>	
	<b>Target Date</b>	8/31/2017
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	This is an indirect cost for administration of HOME funds
	<b>Location Description</b>	City Hall 38 Hawley Street Binghamton, NY 13901
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Administration and inspection activities
3	<b>Project Name</b>	FY42 HOME/Rehabilitation
	<b>Target Area</b>	City of Binghamton
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Increase Owner Occupied Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Homeownership
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$211,995
	<b>Description</b>	Single family rehab program
	<b>Target Date</b>	

4	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Approximately seven households are expected to receive some form of rehabilitation assistance.
	<b>Location Description</b>	City wide. All recipient households must be LMI.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Lead inspection and removal as well as rehabilitation of single family owner occupied housing
	<b>Project Name</b>	FY42 HOME/CHDO Set-aside
	<b>Target Area</b>	City of Binghamton
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Blight Reduction
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Blight Reduction
	<b>Funding</b>	HOME: \$170,000
	<b>Description</b>	CHDOs receiving funding must be certified and meet all HOME requirements for proposed projects.
	<b>Target Date</b>	8/31/2017
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Funds should provide at least ten new quality rental units to the local housing stock.
	<b>Location Description</b>	City wide, but activities will be done on properties owned and rehabilitated by local CHDOs.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Creation and rehabilitation of rental housing.



## **AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)**

### **Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed**

The City wishes to maintain a comprehensive, city-wide plan instead of targeting specific locations. All activities must meet LMI eligibility requirements where required by HUD.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
City of Binghamton	100

**Table 10 - Geographic Distribution**

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

The City wishes to maintain a comprehensive, city-wide plan instead of targeting specific locations. All activities must meet LMI eligibility requirements where required by HUD.

### **Discussion**

## Affordable Housing

### AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

#### Introduction

The City does not run a public housing or Section 8 program. Those are done through the Binghamton Housing Authority, an independent agency. The City also does not use HOME funds for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA). HOME funds can provide assistance to agencies such as CHDOs to provide affordable decent rental units. The ESG program provides services to prevent those in danger of homelessness to remain in their units via rental assistance and to also provide funds for those who are homeless to lease a new rental unit.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	15
Non-Homeless	85
Special-Needs	0
Total	100

**Table 11 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement**

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	70
The Production of New Units	10
Rehab of Existing Units	7
Acquisition of Existing Units	7
Total	94

**Table 12 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type**

#### Discussion

## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

### **Introduction**

The overall goal of the PHA is to provide as much high-quality necessary public housing in excellent condition as it can.

### **Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing**

The PHA plans on increasing the quality of its units, reduce vacancies, expand its voucher landlord base, find additional funding, and to improve the safety of its residents.

### **Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership**

The PHA plans to promote employment amongst its residents when possible. It also plans on seeking services that will allow the elderly or disabled more independence. The City is looking at a project identified through the Comprehensive Plan for the renovation of the area around the main PHA facilities to improve disaster resiliency and renovate the blight within the neighborhood. As sources of funding and plans become available, the City will outreach to PHA staff and its residents to involve them, along with other affected neighbors, to renovate the area in a way that meets the resident's needs and wishes.

### **If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance**

The PHA is not designated as "troubled".

### **Discussion**

## **AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)**

### **Introduction**

**Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including**

**Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs**

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

**Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

**Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again**

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

**Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.**

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

## Discussion

The City is not a recipient of HOPWA funds.

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family
Tenant-based rental assistance
Units provided in housing facilities (transitional or permanent) that are being developed, leased, or operated
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds
Total

## **AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)**

### **Introduction**

Most public policies that have an effect on the affordability of housing have little to do with City policies. CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds are used and do directly affect people's affordability of housing by providing assistance for housing rehabilitation or through providing assistance to those at risk of homelessness by providing temporary rental assistance. Beyond essentially providing funds that residents would not be able to afford on their own that may affect affordability, much of the rest is in the hands of state and federal limitations and regulations that add extra overhead costs to private and public projects.

**Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment**

Tax policies that make it difficult to afford homes are somewhat reduced by using HUD and other grant funds to offset the required taxes to run the city where possible. For example, school taxes are outside the purview of the City as a municipality, and little can be done for those other than to funnel funds into youth programs that may offset school taxes.

The City will run a lead risk assessment program for rehab projects and that can help alleviate lead paint issues homeowners may have when it comes to repairing their homes.

### **Discussion**

## **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction**

#### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

The City will provide funds to "human service" programs run through local non-profits. The City will encourage non-profits to apply for funding and will judge applicants based on the program's impacts for the underserved.

#### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

The City will continue to fund the administration of the First Time Homebuyer program and fully fund the owner occupied rehabilitation programs. The HOME CHDO set aside will address rental unit rehabilitation. The City will also continue to fund programs through area non-profits to provide the homeownership academy and senior housing rehabilitation programs. All of these will help to maintain and improve affordable housing in the area.

#### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

The City will continue to run its lead paint assessment program in tangent with its housing rehabilitation program.

#### **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

The City will continue to fund economic development activities to decrease the unemployment rate.

#### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

City representatives will monitor all agencies receiving CDBG, ESG, and HOME funding during the year to ensure that all activities meet HUD requirements on reporting and financial responsibility.

#### **Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies**

The City is currently working on a Language Assistance Plan (LAP) that will bring together non-profit service agencies and municipal agencies to develop a communication access plan for all City-run and City funded programs. Understanding that there is a close connection between fair housing issues and communication issues, the City is encouraging agencies that can bridge the gap between cultural and economic groups and provide outreach and education programs that are identified through the LAP and Fair Housing Study as needed to submit applications for CDBG funding. Programs such as fair housing

education courses for tenant and landlords, English classes, and translation and communication services, may all be potentially viable under the human service program funding as identified in the plan.

## **Discussion**



## Program Specific Requirements

### AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

#### Introduction

#### Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

##### Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	89.30%

#### HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

##### Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

The City matches HOME funds with State grants from agencies such as the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation or Quarenta Housing. HUD rules allow carryover of previous

unspent matching funds which will likely be utilized.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

HOME funds will not be used for home purchase activities, only for rehab.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

HOME funds will not be used for home purchase activities, only for rehab.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

CHDOs perform multi-family rental unit rehabilitation. Liens and restrictive covenants are placed on the properties to ensure that HUD regulations are followed in regard to rental costs and LMI requirements.

### **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Reference 91.220(l)(4)**

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

Please see attached Emergency Solutions Grants Program Written Standards

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

The local Continuum of Care, the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, encourages members to utilize HMIS to ensure proper database management and homeless tracking.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

RFPs will be released in the Fall. Eligible homeless agencies will be required to submit applications indicating the need for funding and their ability to meet the matching requirement. Awards will be based on many factors, but agencies will be required to indicate what type(s) of ESG funding they are applying for (emergency shelter, street outreach, rapid re-housing, and homeless prevention).

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

The City pays a license for and utilizes the HMIS system run by Fairview Recovery Services, the lead agency for ShelterNet. In addition, there is a City representative that acts as a voting party at monthly Continuum of Care meetings and sits on the CoC financial and information subcommittees.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

ESG can only be evaluated through the lens of the Homeless Coalition. The City strives for a 100% reduction in homelessness and was one of the first to respond to the national call for the elimination of homeless veterans.

## **Discussion**

## Attachments

## Citizen Participation Comments

### Summary of Public Comments and Emails for FY 42 Annual Action Plan:

#### Emails

MW (1/19/2016):

Hi, I am a mother who resides in the city. I just posted a message on a page in FB.. And the following was what I wrote.....\* With the youth we have in Binghamton, and how many lower income families, and at risk youth who are otherwise getting into all sorts of trouble roaming the streets with no parental supervision from the time they are 5 young years... This would provide a sort of structured and positive environment for them. I'm thinking about having a computer lab, like they have in the school, a homework corner, where they can get help with homework, a small food area of some sort, skating, arcade, like an all in one stop and shop... I have other ideas for it too, I also want to have a couple adult managers there at all times they are open, and hire highschool kids only to run the rest. This gives a place where only students can work for a job, and they would have to maintain a certain average in school, or have their teacher send in note that they are trying, but still struggling and that causes their grade to be low.. My mind is overflowing with ideas... Just no way to implement any of them.

As you have read that now, I would like you to be aware that I have called the Mayors office countless times.. No return call.. Even left info as to what it is regarding. I think this would be so amazing. I would be willing to take on the responsibility of heading the project if there was some way the City, or Residents from our Community could donate to a cause that would be so beneficial to our area. Please steer me in a direction where we can grow my idea into something AWESOME!!! Thanks in advance of your time.

LL (2/16/2016):

This email is to request information regarding the possibility of a capital grant for emergency repairs to the Tri-Cities Opera Center roof which houses its theater, set building, costume storage and administrative areas. We are located in the First Ward on Clinton Street. I wondered if the city could use a portion of its entitlement funds to assist us. Many thanks for your consideration and help. I hope to hear from you regarding this matter. It would be nice if there was infrastructure funding for NFP's that own buildings in high poverty areas. We're in the process of renovating our complex which consists of three buildings but it sure is difficult to secure funds. Many thanks again. I'll keep looking.

RSVP Transportation (5/19/2016):

Catholic Charities of Broome County

The RSVP Transportation Program is unique in Broome County. The RSVP Transportation Program provides the only door to door assisted bus service to elderly and disabled adults in the City of Binghamton and surrounding area. Funding is vital and the aging population continues to see an increase in requests for assisted transportation. Drivers provide personal assistance, using a wheelchair equipped bus, to ensure that riders get out of the vehicle and to their front door. For many seniors this program is their only transportation option that allows them to access social, nutritional, mental health and support programs in the community.

A daughter whose mother regularly utilizes the Transportation Program wrote in support of the service saying "I am so grateful for the safe manner in which they transport her to 'Yesteryears.' My husband and I are not able to bring her ourselves as we have to be at work at 7 am, so we rest at ease knowing she is well cared for!"

Because of the Transportation Program seniors do not have to be homebound. They can remain active in the community, remain in their homes longer, and improve their independence and quality of life.

RSVP is working to collaborate with other agencies to provide expanded service for disabled and elderly populations in the City of Binghamton.

March 7, 2016 Public Hearing Transcript

Fairlene Repard: Hi. Good evening. My name is Fairlene Repard and I'm here to tell you a little bit about a company, a non-profit, located in the city of Binghamton that I've had the privilege to work for for the last six years. And the name of that agency is Life Choices Center. It's located on Oak Street right next door to Binghamton High School. It's been in existence for over twenty-five years. Our main mission is to help men and women during unplanned pregnancy situations. One of the first ways that we might meet a client is through a free pregnancy test and then another way might be through a free ultrasound performed by a doctor that volunteers his time from U.H.S. We have three major programs that we would put our clients in. The first I'll tell you about is during pregnancy and that's called Smart Choices. And that pregnancy program is just because we know that parenting is one of the toughest jobs and we want to walk alongside of the clients and help give them everything that they may need just to support them. And then it's a Earn While You Learn program so they earn points for mentoring and coming to class and learning things and showing up and then they get to shop at the baby store and get the physical needs met that they have as well. We have a Beyond the Choice program and that's an abortion recovery program and that's for women who are suffering emotional trauma from having made the choice of abortion. It's very real and they are unaware of the dramatic effects that will happen to them after they have made that decision and we provide a forum at our office where they can come in and have their feelings affirmed and know that they are not alone and can release that kind of secret thing that they've done. The program that I'm really excited to tell you about is Positive Choices and that's the program I've had the privilege to run at the center for the past six years. The difference between this program and the other programs I think you're going to hear about is we are a sexual risk avoidance program, not merely a sexual risk reduction. Sexual risk reduction tells about reducing the risks associated with sex before marriage and we're trying to help the youth avoid that risk. We believe the youth are capable of moral decision making and goal-directed behavior, I mean they're given a consistent message from their parents and their teachers and staff and presenters that they will make healthier behavioral choices for themselves. One of the ways Positive Choices program does this is to help them begin with the end in mind, just

like we would do. We set a goal in life and we're trying to achieve it and then we tell them of all the risks that could get in the way and complicate from reaching that goal. Maybe its sex, you know, maybe it's driving fast, it could be any sort of risky behavior that would stop that. The idea of that is delayed gratification and not falling for any instant little thrill that you're falling upon now, knowing that you're going to live longer, happier and healthier and have sustained success when you're reaching your goals. So it's practicing and teaching them self-control, not doing what I want to do when I want to do it, and self-discipline, doing what I don't want to do when I don't want to do it. And those two things practiced again and again will help you to achieve your goal. We promote avoidance of any other risky behavior in youth: no smoking campaigns-we don't ask them to put a latex filter on the end of their cigarette before they smoke. We tell them "Do not smoke. Avoid it so that you do not get lung cancer-not merely reduce the risk." When it comes to drinking and driving we don't give a reduce-the-risk message either, we give a full avoid-drinking-and-driving. We don't say "Let's take your weight and your height and how much you can consume whether its beer or alcohol and reduce your risk if you get pulled over for a D.W.I. or harming somebody else." This avoidance message we give is consistent across the board with any other risky behavior that youth are involved in. And we think that they deserve it when it comes to sex and waiting for marriage as well. Just happy to tell you about that program and I'll be back in May and give more information on it. And I think I've addressed everything I've wanted to.



Mary Robinson: Hi I'm Mary Robinson, director of development for Family Planning of South Central New York. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to speak to you tonight. First of all I want to tell you about the community needs we've been seeing as a non-profit agency in Binghamton and some of our programs that address those needs. First of all poverty is inextricably linked with control of reproductive health. To have some <intelligible> of economic stability, women must be able to choose when to have children and they must be able to space their pregnancies. As an agency that provides both health care, we are licensed by the New York State Department of Health as a health-care provider, and community education, including teen pregnant <intelligible> and prevention. The primary issues we're seeing in Binghamton include the following. The city of Binghamton has the highest teen pregnancy rate in all of Broome County. So that's, overall, teen pregnancy has gone down but Binghamton still has high levels. Also in 2015, we saw an increase in S.T.Ds, both gonorrhea and syphilis, and a big trend we're seeing among the school age clients we serve is social media safety. So as part of our mission we provide age-appropriate, medically-accurate sex education. Schools are requesting more and more programming from us on social media safety. This includes cyberbullying, understanding child pornography, because when a teenager takes a picture of themselves and sends it to another teenager, they're transporting child pornography, a lot of times they don't even realize this. That goes to sexting too. So in our programs we talk about healthy relationships, we talk about avoiding risky behaviors, and we talk a lot about bullying. Issues of bullying come up in the news lately at East Middle School. We're seeing quite a few more requests from the middle schools for programming that directly addresses bullying and how to have relationships, for students, with fellow students and respond to bullying healthily. Finally we, just as every other non-profit in the area, have seen the effect that heroin has on our community. The problem we see is when female addicts go into recovery and then relapse. Heroin has contraceptive properties, so when a women goes into recovery, she stops using the drug and then has unprotected sex: she's more likely to get pregnant than when she was using. If she relapses, then we see the problem of her potentially harming her child with drug use. The last thing a recovering heroin addict needs is to get pregnant. At Family Planning we're able to provide long acting, reversible contraception that can prevent pregnancy from

three to ten years meaning an addict with an already tumultuous life does not need to remember to take the pill every day. So overall we are seeing quite a few issues and we have a number of needs that we would love Community Development Block Grant funding to help us continue to meet those needs. Thank you again for having us all here tonight.

Cassondra Hamilton: Hi, my name's Cassandra Hamilton, I'm the executive director of Action for Older Persons.

Rebecca Bradley: And I'm Rebecca Bradley. I'm the assistant director of Action for Older Persons.

Cassondra Hamilton: So first of all, I just want to thank everybody for your continued support of our program and we've had a very long relationship with the City of Binghamton and the Community Development Block Grant funding so we're very grateful for that and definitely appreciate it. So as a numbers person, this may be very boring to you guys so I'll apologize before I even start. I just kind of wanted to highlight that the demand in our program continues to expand and expand every year. So what we actually do is we offer one-on-one counseling to individuals who are eligible for Medicare to help them make choices about their secondary insurance, their prescription coverage, and help them enroll in needs-based programs that result in a significant amount of financial savings. So just since 2013, when I actually joined A.O.P., we've gone from serving two hundred fifty one City of Binghamton residents to three hundred thirty two. The financial savings that they've seen from the assistance we've provided has risen from \$156,000 in anticipated health and prescription drug costs to nearly \$350,000. Basically how we calculate those savings when individuals come in we help them switch from one prescription plan to another: we'll just kind of deduct what their costs would have been with the old plan versus the new one. And with the very hot topic of rising drug costs right now, we are actually seeing significant savings from people because prescriptions that may have been \$100 for a month's supply can now be reaching close to \$1000, and we've seen those increases just in the last year or year and a half. So a lot of the prescription plans are refusing to cover certain prescriptions, they're making huge changes to their <intelligible>. So we're seeing a lot of savings for people and a lot of people coming in because they just can't afford their prescriptions. A popular plan in the area that pays secondary to Medicare that helps people to pay and co-pays their deductibles, their premiums actually are looking to increase from \$193 a month right now to \$312. So we are seeing huge jumps for cost of Medicare across the board. So it's definitely losing a lot of <intelligible> just this January and February compared to last January and February we see a thirty three percent increase in the number of individuals that come in for assistance. In 2015, we also kind of expanded our senior health insurance counselling to

begin providing assistance with managed long term care plans. So these are the plans that low income individuals who need care in their homes are eligible to enroll in. We've seen lots of <intelligible> were enrolling in these plans to try to stay in their homes to remain in the community and avoid going to the nursing home. Since this coverage has now been privatized we've seen clients who were getting up to forty-five hours of in-home aid services cut down to twelve. So they are going from significant amounts of care each day to just a few hours. This is help with just basic life tasks: cooking, cleaning, showering, taking medications. So we are now advocating on behalf of those residents and helping them remain in the community.

Rebecca Bradley: One of the roles that I have is the long term <intelligible> coordinator to Region Eleven. We went from having two counties to four. We picked up the I Can program which is the <intelligible> program and that serves three different counties. The issue we are facing is you know we hear from the news about the epidemics and situations. Every epidemic that we hear about is actually affecting the senior population. We have elder abuse exploding because people are taking advantage of seniors to get the money to go and get those drugs. They are being taken out of nursing facilities, because of the loss of possible income from their Social Security being taken to support them being in the facilities. So they are bringing them home unsupervised so that they can continue to accept those Social Security checks for them. We get calls, daily, for people just crying and walk in the door cause they don't know which way to turn. So I kind of do the emotional plea. This is all I've done in my entire adult life, you know I worked in this population. And the one thing that isn't going away is senior needs in this area. It's dramatic, it's growing exponentially and we are trying the best we can to keep up with it. That's why the C.D.B.G. money is so important to us. Because we have been around for quite a few years but every year it feels like it's getting a little bit harder. But we need to give a little bit more, and that's been our goal from day one. We would give that bit a little extra bit no matter what it needs. That's why A.O.P. has been so important to this area. We want to thank you again for helping us in the past and I wanted to make sure that you knew that it was put to good use and let us to continue to do that.

May 2, 2016 Public Hearing

Farlene Repard: I'm glad to be back, representing Life Choices Center again today. My name is Farlene and I run the youth education program with the Center. I'm just going to give another brief recap about what we do, and who we are. We are a pregnancy resource center and we are located on Oak Street, next to the Binghamton High School in the City of Binghamton, and we have been there since 2002. We've been in existence this year for 25 years, happy to say, but we were in Vestal before we were in the City. I also want to let you know, just for the sake of knowing, that we opened another center in 2013 in Owego to serve our sister county of Tioga. Our mission is to serve men and women before, during, and after an unplanned pregnancy. And we have three basic programs that we like to use to serve them in that capacity, and we try to stay within the boundaries of our program, but sometimes I'm happy to say that we go outside of them. Quickly, I just wanted to tell you that we have seen two clients of ours get married, that had children outside of marriage, come in, get mentored, and we have walked alongside them and helped them get rings and clothing and flowers and a church and we assisted in that. So when you have a great outcome like that <intelligible> and let you know that we're willing to go outside of the program when the need exists.

I also want to let you know that the pregnancy resources centers that are closest to here are Sayre and Montrose, Pennsylvania. So they are over the border slightly and none are located within Broome County or the state, within the City of Binghamton.

Quickly, to let you know one of the first ways we might meet a young person would be through a brief pregnancy test or a free ultrasound at our center. We have a doctor affiliated with U.H.S. that comes in and performs those limited ultrasounds on a weekly basis. One of the programs that maybe a young woman would choose to go into is our parenting program, and that is called Smart Choices. Ideally, parenting and mentoring until the child is two years old, and that's just because we know that parenting is one of the toughest jobs going, and we want to walk alongside them if they make the choice to parent to help them become the best parents that they can be. We also know that teen pregnancy rates are high and there is a need for

this program and it also is an Earn While You Learn. So, every time you come to class and make your mentoring appointments and keep doing the assignments that you are given each week to better yourself you earn points and we turn those points into a paycheck and you are able to shop in our on-site baby store so that they're are also getting the physical items that they need to help their parenting along - which would be diapers and formula and all the things that would go along with that.

We have a Beyond the Choice, which is the after program if they had chose abortion. The consequences to choosing abortion are real. We don't talk about it a lot because abortion is legal, but there can be some damaging results that come from it. It is known as PASS - which is Post Abortive Stress Syndrome, very similar to PTSD that warriors would go through after war. It can be traumatic to them, and this program is a place where they can come in and they can talk about that experience and they can learn what it's like to shake the guilt and shame that can be associated with abortion and they can be set free from that.

I think now is an appropriate time to tell you that a lot of our staff members and our volunteers at the center are trained in this area and they have experience as a background in either abortion or teen parenting or risky behaviors. So it really does help us to be relevant and on point with the folks that we're serving that we've experienced a lot of it ourselves. So we have a experiential understanding as well.

The program that I am most excited to tell you about is my program, which is the Positive Choice Program, which is the before-you-ever-become-pregnant or in-a-risky-behavior situation. This is a program where I've given you a few reference letters - attached to the business card - to let you know some of the places that I've been to, what they say and what they think of our comprehensive approach. I really have a passion for this program because I am one of those people that's on staff that's got experience with it. I was a young teen that wanted love and a relationship, and I went about it all wrong, which likely we do and the media is oversexualized, and we don't have somebody really telling us, and breaking that down to us, so that we understand it. I feel as though I have a great understanding on what it is young folks are looking for,

the void they are trying to fill, and I am happy to tell them that sex probably won't fill that. That they are going to actually need to develop their personhood before they can ever enter into a partnership. I also love to let them know what love really is, and that it's not just an emotional fleeting that we fell, and it's actually something that is unconditional that you set on somebody very similar to our folks and our parents and what they set on us. And that it should look like that in their relationships.

I also like to let young folks know that their body is not their best asset. That they are multi-dimensional and they have five dimensions to them which is their physical, their intellect, their emotion, their social which is their personality, and a spiritual side. All of these different dimensions come into play when you are involved with a sexual relationship and all of them can be damaged. So it isn't just pregnancy and abortion or S.T.Ds, there are other consequences that come with it.

Young people cannot make good decisions if they do not have all the information presented to them. We really do know that the truth sets you free and we want to provide that so that they have freedom from all of these negative consequences and not necessarily freedom to do whatever they want in <intelligible> society and our media.

I also like to share with young folks about their value because I think if they understood how valuable and unique they were, they would be much more apt to set clear boundaries around themselves. One question I like to ask to teens when I am in a classroom is "raise your hand if you have a cellphone." They all raise their hands. And I say, "leave your cellphone up if I can take it home with me for the night." No hands stay up. I ask them why and they are like its mine, its personal, its expensive, my mom would kill me, it's private, and all of those things. So I clearly show them that they know the value of their cellphone and they're putting a boundary around it then how much more valuable are they and that that boundary should be put around them in the same manner.

So it's just a program to walk alongside of young folks before they ever make the decision to have sex, to help them avoid risky behaviors, and help them make good decisions for sustained success, which has to do with self-

control, self-discipline and delayed gratification, and teaching them that is ideal. Because we teach that to them in any other area of their life. Practice self-control and self-discipline for a sport because then you know you'll be good at it, practice self-control and self-discipline in school because then you'll graduate and get the degree that you want. This is no different, it is a comprehensive approach to a sexual risk avoidance message. If in fact, we were to get grant money from the C.D.A.C and the city, I'm not quite sure how we would use it yet but I know that it would be my baby and that it would be attached with Positive Changes Program. Perhaps we would do some S.T.D testing, and maybe become more clinical. Or we would market ourselves better, or come up with more curriculum to be able to reach more teens. So that's what we would do if we were selected.

Thank you very much again for your time and your energy.

Sean Massey: I just have a couple of questions and I absolutely appreciate that you take a fresh look at the multiple aspects of youth <intelligible> up. I just have a few questions about your pre-pregnancy efforts.

Farlene Repard: Which is my Positive Choice Program that I am speaking.

Sean Massey: Do you provide comprehensive sex education to youth?

Farlene Repard: Comprehensive sex education, yes. If you look at that first reference letter from SUNY Binghamton, the professor there - she explains it. We do give a comprehensive approach.

Sean Massey: Comprehensive sex education is defined as best practices by Sexual Information Council SIECUS. Again, abstinence only is not a comprehensive so I was wondering if you actually do comprehensive sex education

Farlene Repard: Yes on some levels we do, but we also have other non-profits in the area that do that holistically. So typically in the Binghamton High School and at SUNY Binghamton, what happens is another agency would come in and present a deeper view of what you're speaking of and we would come alongside of them and give a more avoidance risk message. So they're risk-reduction and we're risk-



avoidance. The two of them together is what is the comprehensive approach.

Sean Massey: As the research shows in terms of almost every public health agency, the Department of Health again the kind of leading agencies in terms of sexual education and public health, they all say comprehensive, not risk avoidance, but comprehensive sex education is the most appropriate strategy and most successful in terms of the outcome we would all agree we want and so you say you partner with other agencies. Another question is that you're thinking of doing S.T.D testing? Are you licensed by the Department of Health?

Farlene Repard: No, that is something we would look into doing. Obviously we would go through all the hoops that we would need to to make sure that we're doing everything correctly.

Sean Massey: I have one more question, in terms of medical or public health information that is out there, do you make it available or do you actually have a hands-on approach in terms of best practices in terms of comprehensive sex education.

Farlene Repard: No, we work alongside of the other agencies like I told you, so we definitely refer people to other agencies knowing that this is an effort that needs to be combined throughout the city and the other agencies that are involved and again I don't want to name them but we work alongside of many of them. If you want me to: there is Family Planning, also Catholic Charities, the Y., Family Enrichment Network. What one does not do the best at, someone else would pick up the slack on it. And again, some of this is new territory for us, so I don't have all of the answers of what that would look like. And we are looking for funding so that we can approach some of that.

Jerry Kunkle: Can you tell me what are the staff numbers you have?

Farlene Repard: On-staff in Owego, I believe we have two paid staff right now. Like I said we just opened that office in 2013. And in the city of Binghamton there are seven, I believe, paid staff. And probably 30 volunteers that help us make our business successful.

Debra Hogan: Have you sought funding from us before?

Farlene Repard: No, I don't believe so. I've been with the center six and a half years. In my time there, no definitely not. Before that, I'm fairly certain not.

Mary Robinson: My name is Mary Robinson, I'm from Family Planning of South Central New York. I would like to state for the record that abstinence only programs are at best, ineffective and wasteful, and at worst, misleading and dangerous to our youth. Numerous studies have shown that these programs do not delay adolescent first sexual encounters and may deter contraceptive use, increasing their risk of unintended pregnancies and S.T.Is. I'm happy to forward copies of this peer reviewed research for anyone interested in looking for more information.

JoAnne Hanrahan: I'm sorry, what was the name of the research?

Mary Robinson: I said there is numerous studies that have been done and I am happy to forward those peer reviewed studies to you. I don't have the list in front of me right now, but I can email it to you tomorrow

JoAnne Hanrahan: OK, I didn't understand what the research covers .

Mary Robinson: I'm talking about sex education.

JoAnne Hanrahan: I thought you were here to talk about Family Planning? So I didn't understand what you're saying that you have a -

Mary Robinson: Family Planning offers comprehensive, medically accurate, age appropriate sex education.

JoAnne Hanrahan: So is that it?

Mary Robinson: That's all I have to say today

Sean Massey: I actually have the same questions that I asked before to Life Choices as well if I may. The first one was: do you offer comprehensive sex education?

Mary Robinson: Yes. We use evidence based programs that <intelligible interruption> so the curriculum that we use is called "Be Proud, Be Responsible". It's an evidence-based program that teaches kids life skills and it does discuss abstinence as the only sure-fire way to prevent pregnancies and S.T.Ds, but it also gives students the resources to make positive choices and avoid risky behaviors.

Nancy Johnson: I'm Residential Director at the Y.W.C.A, I live at 91 Phelps Street in Binghamton, New York. I've been Residential Director at the Y.W. for almost 16 years. We've received funding for a very long time from the city to support our emergency shelter, which is now under the emergency solutions grant. Our shelter is 12 beds, except in the winter period, which we call the No Freeze for the Homeless Coalition from November to April 30th and then we put up two more beds, we take down the sofas in the lounge and we put up beds so that we can deal with the overflow. That came in very handy this year with the governor's executive order, where we had to take in additional people if it went under 32 degrees, which we are kind of continuing because the weather isn't cooperating even though it's May.

In our emergency housing program, I have a shelter coordinator who works normal business hours, I have an assistant shelter coordinator who works non-traditional hours, and I have front desk security who provides 24 hour a day security at the front desk, as well as program aides.

On any given day we can house 12 women and up to 3 to 4 children. The women come to us in any kind of situation that could deem them homeless. It could be fires, it could be evictions, it could be substance abuse, it could be mental illness, it could be domestic violence. There's a myriad of problems that the women come to us with. And many of them only come to us with only the clothes on their back or a garbage bag full of clothes. And it's our job in a very short period of time, which is usually 21 to 30 days, to stabilize these women to provide them with all their basic needs, as far as food, personal hygiene items, transportation to and from appointments, in order to secure permanent housing within the community or within one of our other housing programs at the Y.W.

The housing stock in Binghamton is an issue right now for low-income women and low-income men. The university is taking over the majority of the houses that 12 to 15 years ago had apartments where women could go and D.S.S would fund them. They're getting less and less and it's becoming harder and harder to place these women within 21 to 30 days in the community. Sometimes we get backed up in the shelter and have waiting lists, although my staff does an extraordinary job - we place about 70% of our women in permanent supportive housing. The annual homeless

assessment that the Southern Tier Homeless Coalition just did identifies that 51% of shelter people get placed in permanent housing. So we're above the norm for placing these women and children in permanent housing - many of whom come into our other housing programs at the Y.W.

It's also going to be the starting place for our new housing track, which we just got funded through the county for 8 beds for moms in recovery with opiate addicted babies. That program started today, although our construction is not done and the staff is not all hired, but we do have baby number one who was just born this weekend and is not home yet. So we do have a mom and a baby coming in, and they have gone through our emergency shelter and are currently living in housing.

So we always thank the city for your continued support. The issue of homelessness is not going away and I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to come and hear about what we do.

Dana Brown: I'm with an organization called Community Development. I'm here to comment on the community block grant. Our organization is a non-profit organization, I just walked into this. I just came from another organizational meeting.

The thing about Community Block Grant - it's been around since 1974. I believe the city of Binghamton is a tale of two cities. I only mention it to you because, our organization believes there is a lot of economic development, which is being done in the community. I think the advisory committee should look at some potential proposals that would be conducive to the population. We see all this development downtown but also there's another population which needs to be addressed, like public housing.

One of the things our organization has done, which is very conducive, which probably none of the committee knows. We're building a sign for the American Legion, for the veterans. We're putting 100% of the proceeds for an electronic sign. We have a private financier who is going to help us with the project. I wanted the city, its Post 80, to be familiar with this project. We're doing capital improvements for the veterans. We're doing these initiatives - all private financing. I hope to introduce a couple interesting proposals in the next coming months.

We're raising \$25,000 to give the veterans electronic sign and capital improvements. The reason why we're doing this project is because it's right. Our organization has done different events in the community. If people don't know about the American Legion, you should really take a look at some of the organizations that have been around for a long time.

Also, our organization, Community Development, has been around for ten years. We're looking to submit a competitive interesting proposal to the city. I'm sorry I got here a little late but I was at another community meeting, there was an executive committee, and they kicked me out and my community organizer from L.A., but we'll be back there at 7:00.

For instance, the economical regional money, which is here in the Southern Tier, I think community organizations should get together and decide. Because it's not just for

student populations, this is for - for instance, I've looked at other communities, and I've been to northeast communities where if you do provide housing you have anchor entities adjacent like laundromats, coffee houses. I think also the organizations- the Community Block money is important but also I don't know if your committee has some pull to talk about the 500 million dollars that was earmarked for the area: for the Southern Tier, Finger Lakes, Syracuse.

I've looked at the Community Block money: we've never submitted a proposal. I'm talking to some other groups of how we can best serve -

For instance, the development of the youth work force. For instance, I come down to Binghamton and work at the law library for our clients. I see a lot of young people just hanging around. Is the city going to look at initiatives to workforce development? Things that this Community Block money - different communities do different things - some just do strictly all housing, some organizations do social services.

I only wanted to comment: take a look at our organization and take a look at organizations that also strive to help all populations. We do see the student population downtown, but outside of the city or the outskirts there are youth in need, really in need. Thank you.

